

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, lines 1-2, replace the title paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

TYRE FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL[[S]] ~~WITH TREAD BAND OF CAP~~  
~~AND BASE CONSTRUCTION~~ PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE TYRE

Page 1, line 3, add the following paragraph in the form of a section heading after the new title “TYRE FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE TYRE” and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph after the heading “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” added above and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

This application is a national-phase entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/EP2003/006620, filed June 24, 2003, in the European Patent Office, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading after the cross-reference to related applications added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading after the heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

### Field of the Invention

Page 1, line 13, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “In the field of production of tyres . . . .”

### Description of the Related Art

Page 6, line 8, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “Therefore, the Applicant has faced the problem . . . .”

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 17, line 14, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention will now be illustrated . . . .”

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 17, line 22, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “A tyre for vehicle wheels according to . . . .”

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Add a new page 37 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 37 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A tyre for a vehicle wheel includes a carcass structure, a belt structure, a tread band, and a pair of sidewalls. The carcass structure includes at least one carcass ply shaped in a substantially toroidal configuration. Opposite lateral edges of the carcass structure are associated with respective bead wires. Each bead wire is enclosed in a respective bead. The belt structure includes at least one belt strip. The tread band includes a radially outer layer designed to contact the ground and a radially inner layer between the belt structure and the radially outer layer. The radially inner layer includes a crosslinked elastomeric composition. The crosslinked elastomeric

composition includes at least one diene elastomeric polymer and at least one layered inorganic material comprising an individual layer thickness greater than or equal to 0.01 nm and less than or equal to 30 nm. A process for producing the tyre is also disclosed.